

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
ICAE-00 INRE-00 SIG-03 ACDA-12 MCE-00 DOE-15
SOE-02 SSM-05 IO-14 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /103 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:HSAUNDERS
APPROVED BY NEA:HSAUNDERS
S/S TMARTIN

-----109302 160356Z /14

O 160330Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL NEAR EASTERN AND SOUTH ASIAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 123875

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, XF

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT ON SENATE VOTE ON ME ARMS
SALE

FOR YOUR INFORMATION WE ARE REPEATING THE PRESIDENT'S
STATEMENT ON THE SENATE VOTE ON THE MIDDLE EAST ARMS
SALE, AS RELEASED MAY 15, 1978:

I AM DEEPLY GRATIFIED BY THE SENATE'S DECISION TODAY WHICH
WILL PERMIT THE PROPOSED ARMS SALES TO ISRAEL, EGYPT AND
SAUDI ARABIA. THAT ACTION REAFFIRMS OUR HISTORIC AND
UNSHAKABLE COMMITMENT TO THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL -- A
COMMITMENT WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE THE UNWAVERING
SUPPORT OF THIS ADMINISTRATION AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

AT THE SAME TIME, THE SENATE VOTE STRENGTHENS OUR TIES WITH
MODERATE ARAB NATIONS WHO SHARE OUR GOAL OF PEACE AND
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STABILITY IN THE REGION. WE ALSO HONOR BIPARTISAN PLEDGES
MADE BY THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION AS WELL AS MY OWN TO
HELP OUR FRIENDS IN THE MIDDLE EAST MEET THEIR LEGITIMATE
NEEDS FOR SELF-DEFENSE.

THE APPROVAL OF THESE SALES WILL NOT VIOLATE THE ARMS
LIMITATION POLICY OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, WHICH I ANNOUNCED

LAST MAY, THAT PLEDGE TO LIMIT ARMS SALES WILL BE MET. IF

AND WHEN OTHER NATIONS ARE WILLING TO JOIN WITH US IN
MUTUAL RESTRAINT ON THE SALE OF CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, EVEN
GREATER REDUCTIONS WILL BE POSSIBLE.

IN THE MEANTIME, THE SENATE'S ACTION MAKES IT CLEAR THAT
THE UNITED STATES STANDS READY TO PROVIDE NEEDED ASSISTANCE
WHEN UNRESTRAINED ARMS SALES BY OTHER NATIONS POSE A
THREAT TO THE SECURITY OF OUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES.

WITH THIS ISSUE RESOLVED, THE SHARP DEBATE OVER THE
PROPOSED SALES CAN NOW BE PUT BEHIND US. THAT DEBATE HAS
BEEN AMONG FRIENDS WHO SHARE THE SAME GOALS. ALL OF US
CAN NOW CONCENTRATE OUR FULL ATTENTION ON FINDING A SOUND
AND JUST BASIS FOR PERMANENT PEACE.

THE US WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY A RESPONSIBLE AND ACTIVE
ROLE IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. WE WILL
INTENSIFY OUR EFFORT TO HELP THE PARTIES NARROW THEIR
DIFFERENCES. OUR OWN NATIONAL INTEREST AND MORAL VALUES
PERMIT US TO DO NO LESS. VANCE

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